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# CABFARE

Number 2 Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board November 2001

## Board delegation attends national chairs conference

Three members of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board attended the Department of Energy Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board's National Chairs Conference, August 26-29.

Linda Long, Doug Raper and Becky Lambert represented the Paducah CAB at the conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Accompanying the group were Patricia Halsey, DOE Federal Coordinator; Stacey Young, Bechtel Jacobs Public Affairs; and Steve Kay, board facilitator.

Members of advisory boards from sites across the country attended. DOE officials were on-hand to give presentations and contribute to discussion groups.

Speaker Gene Schmitts represented Jessie Roberson, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. Schmitts is the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Planning and Budget, U. S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management. He reported on the status of the Top-Down Review of the agency.

The conference was a good opportunity for the members to ask questions and comment on the Board's role in the Top-Down Review.

Chairs or their representatives reported on current issues and concerns of the advisory boards.

Some of the main concerns mentioned in the reports were adequacy of the clean-up budget, groundwater contamination and protection of the aquifer, long-term stewardship, waste disposal and



Representing the Paducah CAB at the national chairs conference were: (front row) Linda Long and Doug Raper; (back row) Becky Lambert, Steve Kay, Stacey Young and Pat Halsey.

storage, and high-level waste.

In Santa Fe, board representatives also participated in round robin discussions about how the various advisory boards are involved in formulating DOE's cleanup budget. They also talked about the scope of the SSABs and their relationships with DOE.

The conference allowed the Paducah representatives to gain perspective on how other boards function.

"Getting together with people with similar problems and talking about how they are finding solutions is helpful," said Long, a charter member of the board who has represented the Paducah CAB at several chairs' conferences.

The members also toured the Los Alamos facility near Santa Fe. This

*(See CHAIRS, back page)*

## NEWS IN BRIEF ...

### ☐ Board prompts DOE teleconference

— At the urging of the Paducah CAB, DOE held a teleconference in Paducah on October 17 to discuss an upcoming Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement concerning scrap metal. The meeting gave area residents a chance to ask questions and make comments.

### ☐ Public meeting set on ditch cleanup —

DOE will hold a public meeting on Nov. 1, from 6-8 p.m. to discuss its plans for cleaning up the North-South Diversion Ditch at the Paducah site. The meeting is at the DOE Environmental Information Center, 115 Memorial Drive in the Barkley Centre. For information: (270) 441-5204.

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## Survey shows divisions on plant cleanup issues

The public is divided on several issues about DOE's cleanup at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, a survey in the inaugural issue of CABfare suggests.

The survey asked people their views on the potential of an on-site facility for the disposal of contaminated material, what the future use of the site should be, and other questions.

Forty-six percent of those responding said DOE should build an on-site facility. Thirty-one percent said no, and 23 percent said they needed more information.

Twenty-seven percent said the DOE site should be used exclusively as a recreational or wildlife management area in the future, while 24 percent said it should be exclusively industrial. The remaining 49 percent said they agreed with DOE's current plan of mixing industrial and recreational uses.

On the question of whether people trust the information they are getting from DOE, the respondents were equally divided. One-third said they trusted DOE, one-third said they did not, and one-third said they were uncertain.

More than 70 percent of those responding said they were concerned about contaminated drinking water and other radioactive and chemical contamination from the plant. Almost 60 percent said they were concerned about property values in the area.

The CABfare survey was not a scientifically conducted poll. It was mailed to about 3,000 homes and businesses in McCracken and other area counties. Seventy-one people responded.

## CAB seeks applications for new board members

Interested in the cleanup of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant? The PGDP Citizens Advisory would like to hear from you.

The board is seeking applications from people who would like to help DOE formulate policy for the cleanup program in Paducah.

The board wants people from all walks of life, from Paducah and the entire region. Those applying should be willing to invest the time needed to be a board member. That time commitment includes one board meeting and at least one committee or task force meeting a month, plus a two-day retreat in the spring.

If you are interested, you can call the board office at (270) 554-3004 to obtain an application, or apply on-line at [www.oakridge.doe/pgdpssab](http://www.oakridge.doe/pgdpssab).

Applications will be held for a period of two years. This application period will be used to create a pool of qualified applicants to choose from to fill future vacancies.

## Chairs meeting helpful

*(Continued from front page)*

helped them understand the historical activities at the site and see what DOE is doing today in environmental management and restoration.

"As a new board member, I thought it was very informative," Lambert said. "It was like a crash-course in environmental management. It was helpful to interact with other boards, find out what they are doing and what their concerns are."

